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DIST. 3 January 1947

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SUPPLEMENT

1. At the conclusion of the meetings in Bangkok between Baron Patrick Surcouf and Free Lao leaders, Surcouf said that when he returned to Saigon he would try to impress upon the authorities the importance of having the Free Laos return to their country. He stated that men of the calibre of Souphanavong were badly needed there to carry on the work of the country. After he had persuaded the French (which he thought would be relatively easy) the next problem would be to get the King and Prince Savang to agree. This, he thought, would be much more difficult as there had been a rift between the King and his brother-in-law, Chao Petsarath, for the past twenty years.
2. Baron Surcouf said he hoped to return to Bangkok and bring with him another Frenchman now stationed in the government service at Luang Prabang to continue "pourparlers" with the Laos. Surcouf expected to return to the United States in January.
3. The other Frenchman referred to above is also highly respected by the Laos. Tao Oon stated that he had been even more popular than Surcouf during his tour of duty in the Lao Provinces before the war.
4. On the other hand, Petsarath, Souphanavong and Tao Oon said they would never consider returning to the Lao Provinces until the Franco-Laotian modus vivendi was very much altered. However, they did not tell Surcouf this fact.

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NO CHANGE in Class.

☐ DECLASSIFIED

Class. CHANGED TO: TS S C

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for

Baron Surcouf's views and an account of the conversations which took place between him and Free Lao leaders previous to the information in this report.

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DSO	X	A DEP.	X	FBT		SPDF		VTO			
ADSO		FBK		FBV		SPDS		B DEP.			
KEC.		FBM		FBZ	Q	SCC		CTR3			
CONTROL											
LAWS	X	FSP		SPDA		TB3					